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establishments, and is built upon such a plan as must do credit to the taste, as well as to the wealth of the disgraced community (the Jesuits.) In the Irish College, three score Students are received at a time, and when these are sent back to Ireland, the same number from thence are admitted, to be, like them, trained up for the ministry; their course of education requires eight years. They are expected to come well founded in the languages, and of the time allowed to them in Spain, four years are given up to philosophy, the remainder to divinity. The mode of giving lectures is perhaps peculiar to themselves, but worthy to be followed in our universities. The Students have questions proposed for their discussion twice every day, and on these they are informed what books to read; then supposing the subject to admit of a dispute, it is carried on by two of them, under the direction of a Moderator, who gives assistance, when it is wanted, and guides them to the truth; where this mode of proceeding is not admissible, the Tutors, instead of giving formal lessons, employ themselves in the examination of their Pupils, and the business of instruction is thus greatly expedited. Dr. Curtis lives with his pupils, like a father with his children, and although in a state of banishment, seems happy in the discharge of his important functions. It is however much to be lamented, that he and they should be reduced to the necessity of seeking that protection in a foreign, distant country, to which they are entitled in their own; this kind of persecution is neither just, nor politic; it is certain that ignorance and bigotry have a strong connection.

Would you overcome inveterate prejudices? and are you anxious to banish superstition? let in the light; would you conciliate the affections of those who differ from you in their religious creed? no longer persecute: embrace them, and from enemies, they will become your friends; let in the light, and difference of opinion dies away; Catholics in the more enlightened countries, are no longer papists; their whole system is going to decay; and without claiming more than common sagacity, we may venture to foretel, that in proportion as the

limits of toleration shall be extended, all that cannot bear the light will gradually vanish, till the distinction between Catholic and Protestant shall cease. To hasten this event, the education of Catholics in Ireland for the purpose of the ministry, should not only be connived at, but should meet with all possible encouragement."

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

IN the present scarcity of flax-seed it looks as if Hemp could in some cases be substituted in the manufacture of the coarser fabrics, instead of flax. Last year the Linen-board published a pamphlet on the subject, and as in the present crisis, it has become of still greater importance, we hope some active measures will be speedily adopted by the Board to encourage the sowing of Hemp, and the manufacture of it into linen. In the mean time to give our aid to promote the publicity of the plan, we annex the fore part of their advertisement of last year, and give an Extract from the general view of the agriculture of the County of Suffolk, abridged from their pamphlet. In our next number we expect to resume the subject.

#### CULTURE OF HEMP.

*Linen-board, March 1, 1808.*

THE soil best calculated for raising hemp, is rich, loamy land, or bog thoroughly drained, well manured, and covered with lime-stone gravel, clay, or sand; but any soil that is moderately good, and in a proper tilth, will answer beneficially. A crop of potatoes in the year preceding, or rape, or turnips in the year in which the hemp-seed is to be sown, will be found a good preparation. A hemp crop will be found in general to prepare well for wheat.

The time of sowing is from February to the end of April. If the season permits, the farmer should not defer the sowing longer; but, like flax, it may be sown as late as the middle of May. Care should be taken to keep the birds off the land, till the seed vegetates.

The time of pulling is about thirteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow, and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity for that purpose.

There are two kinds of hemp, male and female. The male is distinguished by a small yellow flower on its head, almost as fine in its nature as dust, which, when ripe, is blown over the field, impregnating the female plants which bear the seed. The distinction of the sex or species may also be known by the different size of the stalk, the female being the grosser of the two. Both kinds may be pulled together, but if it be the intention of the farmer to save the seed, the female hemp, on account of its bearing the seed, must be permitted to remain longer.

#### MANAGEMENT.

THE crop when pulled is to be water-rotted and set up in stooks or spread on the grass, in the same manner, and for the same time, as flax; the time varying of course, as in the case of flax, with the state of the weather. The female plants pulled late, should be stooked in small bundles in the field, after pulling, for a few days, so as that the seed may harden, and thereby separate easy in the thrashing or rippling; the latter of which is to be preferred, because the stem suffers less in the process.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF SUFFOLK.

The district of country in which this article of cultivation is chiefly found, extends from Eye to Beccles, spreading to the breadth of about ten miles, which oblong of country may be considered as its head-quarters.

It is in the hands of both farmers and cottagers; but it is very rare to see more than five or six acres in the occupation of any one man. With cottagers, the more common method is, to sow it every year on the same land: there is a piece at Hoxne, which has been under this crop for seventy successive years. The soil preferred is, what is called in the district, *mixed land*, that is, sandy loam, moist and putrid, but without being stiff or tenacious; in one word, the best land the country contains; and does well, as may be supposed, on old meadow, and low bottoms near rivers. They manure for it with great attention; so that it may be taken as a maxim, that hemp is not often sown without

this preparation: of dung and moulds, twenty-five three-horse loads per acre; of dung alone, sixteen loads. This is done directly after wheat sowing is finished.

The tillage consists in three earths, with harrowing sufficient to make the soil perfectly fine; and it is laid flat, with as few furrows as possible.

Time of sowing: from the middle to the end of April; but will bear being sown all May. It is often found that the early sown, yields hemp of the best quality.

Quantity of seed: eleven pecks per acre, at the price of one shilling to two shillings a peck, generally from sixteen to eighteen pence. Much is brought from Downham, and the fens; the seeded hemp is not so good by eighteen pence or two shillings the stone.

No weeding is ever given to it, the hemp destroying every other plant.

It is pulled thirteen or fourteen weeks after sowing; the wetter the season the longer it stands; and it bears a dry year better than a wet one; they make no distinction in pulling between the male and female; or female and seed hemp, as denominated in some places. In the Cambridge-shire fens they are frequently separated, which may arise from their hemp being coarser, and the stalk larger. The price of pulling is one shilling a peck of the seed sown, or eleven shillings an acre, and beer; but if it comes in harvest, the expence is higher. It is tied up in small bundles, called *bais*.

It is always water-retted;\* clay pits preferred to any running water,

\* Generally; but in a circle, of about six miles round Thiltenham, the greater part is never put into the water at all, but is dew-retted which is done by laying it on pasture ground, for, from three to six weeks, according to the season, and turned five or six times. This process costs about one shilling per stone, per acre, including pulling, spreading, turning, and getting up: and the hemp at market is not worth so much by two shillings per stone, as that which hath been water-retted, and therefore probably the custom of dew-retting is only followed to any considerable degree where there are not pits sufficient to water-ret what grows in a district.

and cleaned out once in seven or eight years. An acre of three small waggon loads are laid in one *bed*. They will water five times in the same hole; but it is thought by some too much. If necessary to wait, they pull as the hole is ready, not choosing to leave it on the land after being pulled.

It is generally four days in the water, if the weather is warm, if not, five; but they examine and judge by feeling it. The expence is twelve to fifteen shillings an acre.

The grassing requires about five weeks; and if there are showers, constantly turned thrice a week; if not, twice a week. This is always on grass land or layers. It is done by women; the expence ten shillings an acre. It is then tied up in large bundles of eight or ten *bails*, and carted home to a barn or house to break directly.

Breaking is done by the stone, at one shilling. There are many people in the district who do it, and earn fifteen or sixteen pence a day, and beer. The offal, called hemp *sheaves*, makes good fuel and sells at two-pence per stone.

It is then marketable, and sold by sample at Dis, Harling, Bungay, &c. price 5s. 6d. to 8s. a stone; generally 7s. 6d. In 1795, 10s. In 1801, 14s.

The buyer heckles it, which is done at 1s. 6d. a stone; he makes it into two or three sorts, *long strike*, *short strike*, and *pull tow*. Women buy it and spin it into yarn, which they carry to market, and sell at prices proportioned to the fineness. This the weaver buys, who converts it into cloth, which is sold at market also. The spinners earn better and more steady wages than by wool: a common hand will do two skeins a day, three of which are a clue, at nine-pence; consequently she earns sixpence a day; and will look to her family and do half a clue.

The fabrics wrought in this country from their own hemp, have great merit. They make it to 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. a yard, yard wide, for shirts; and I was shown sheets and table linen, now quite good, after twenty years wear. Huckabacks for table linen, 13d. to 7s. a yard, ell wide,

The produce of an acre may, on an average, be reckoned forty-five stone, at 7s. 6d. Some crops rise to fifty-five, and even more; and there are bad ones so low as twenty-five. If sold on the ground as it stands, generally one shilling a rod, or 8l. an acre.

The common method is to sow turnips on the land immediately after the hemp is cleared: this is for producing, among the little occupiers, some food for a cow and the family. With good management, one ploughing and one hoeing will carry them to the value of 30s. But an evil arising from the practice is, that the land must for the next crop, be mucked in the spring, when carting does more damage. When grain is sown after the hemp, it is wheat; and these are the best crops in the country, as nothing is esteemed to clean land like this plant. After the wheat, barley, or oats; and this great also.

Finding the profit so great, I demanded why the culture did not increase rapidly? I was answered that its coming in the midst of harvest was embarrassing, and that the attention it demanded in every stage of its progress was great; being liable to be spoiled if the utmost care was not perpetual.

It is considered, and with great justice, throughout the district, to be of infinite consequence to the country; and especially to the poor, who are entirely supported by it, and are now earning six-pence a day by spinning, with more ease than three-pence is gained on the other side of the county by wool.

The culture has increased considerably in the last ten years.

A manufacturer at Stowmarket, thus communicates to me on this subject, from whose account it appears that there are variations:—"Hemp may be grown with success, on the same land, many years, by manuring annually. The quantity of seed usually sown, is from nine to twelve pecks per acre; varying with the strength of the soil, and the custom of the country. In those places where the finest and best hems are grown, twelve pecks is a common quantity.

"The soil and season make a very

material difference in the produce and quality. An acre will produce from 25 to 60 stone; an average crop may be estimated about 36 or 38.

"Hemp, when left for seed, is seldom water-retted, from the additional trouble and expense; but I am of opinion, it would be better if so done. It is generally stacked and covered during the winter, and is spread upon meadow-land in January or February. If the season suits (particularly if covered with snow) it will come to a good colour, and make strong coarse cloths. It is much inferior to hemp pulled in proper time and water-retted.

"The custom of some places is to dew-ret their hemp; that is to spread it on meadow-land as soon as pulled, and turned frequently; but this is a very bad method of retting it; the bark will not come off completely—it therefore requires more violent means of bleaching the yarn, and consequently diminishes the strength. It is likewise much sooner injured in rainy seasons than hemp water-retted: water-retting is performed by binding the hemp in small bunches, with the under-hemp, when pulled, and as soon as may be placed in rows crossing each other in the water, and immersed. Stagnant water is deemed the best: it requires four, five, or six days steeping, till the outside coat easily rubs off, and is then spread on meadow land, and turned frequently until finished. The same water will not be proper for receiving hemp more than three times in a season, and the first water always produces the best colour, in the least time.

"But I do not pretend to give exact directions for managing hemp; it can only be acquired by practice. When the hemp is retted, it is bound up in sheaves or large bunches, and with a machine called a brake, the cambuck is broken in pieces, and with a swingle is cleared from the small remaining pieces of the cambuck, and then bound up in stones. In Suffolk  $14\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of hemp are deemed a stone. The hemp which breaks off in the operation, and called shorts, is bound up by itself, and is about half the value of the long hemp.

"The price of breaking hemp varies

with the length, and the ease or difficulty with which the cambuck separates from it: from 12d. to 18 or 20d. is paid; 12d. and 14d. are the common prices. The refuse is only fit for burning, and is sold from one penny to two-pence per sack.

"I have been informed that there are mills erected for breaking flax; and as the mode of breaking is similar, I imagine they might be applied to hemp.

"When the hemp is broken it is fit for market, and is purchased by hecklers. Dis, Harleston, and Halesworth, are considerable markets for hemp; but the greatest quantity is sold to neighbouring hecklers, without carrying to market.

"The prices vary very much: dew-ret hemp sells from 1s. to 18d. or 2s. lower than water-ret. The present price of the best water-ret is about 8. 6d. per stone: this price is very high. Dew-ret hemp is proper for coarse yarns only: and if that were made from water-retted hemp, it would be stronger and of a better colour.

"The first operation of the heckler, is bunching or beating the hemp; this was formerly, and is still, in some places, done by hand; but in Suffolk, is now always done by a mill, which lifts up two, and sometimes three heavy beaters alternately, that play upon the hemp, while it is turned round by a man or boy to receive the beating regularly. This mill is sometimes wrought by a horse, and sometimes by water; but I think a machine might be contrived to save the expense of either. In this I may be mistaken.

"The time requisite for beating the hemp, varies according to the quality of it, and the purposes it is intended for; the finer the tow is intended to be, the more beating the hemp requires. When bunched it is dressed or combed by drawing it through heckles, resembling wool-comber's tools, only fixed. The prices paid the heckler vary in different places, and with the different degrees of fineness to which it is dressed, from three farthings to two-pence per pound is paid; and the earnings are from 15d. or 16d. to 2s. per day.

"In the hemp trade there are no fixed rules for combing, as in the wool trade. The same hemp is dressed finer or coarser, to suit the demands of the purchasers. It is sometimes divided into two or three sorts of tow, and sometimes the whole is worked together for one sort.—The prices of tow vary, from about 6d. to 18d. per pound.

"The heckler either sells the tow to spinners and to weavers, or puts it out to spin himself, and sells the yarn to the weavers. The prices of spinning vary with the fineness of the yarn:

|                              |     |       |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 clue from a pound is worth | d.  | d.    |
| spinning, about . . .        | 7   | or 6½ |
| 1½ clue from a pound, . . .  | 8½  | or 8  |
| 2 clues from a pound, . . .  | 9½  | or 9  |
| 2½ clues from a pound, . . . | 10½ | or 10 |
| 3 clues from a pound, . . .  | 12  | 0     |

"The spinners who buy the tow, sell their yarn to neighbouring weavers, or at the nearest market. The yarn is reeled in many places:—2 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 3 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards: in others—3 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 2 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards. The former is the most convenient method for the bleacher and weaver.

"Weavers, in general, purchase their yarn from spinners in the neighbourhood, or at markets, and deliver it to the whiter, as he is commonly called, who returns it, bleached, to the weaver; receiving 20 or 21 for bleaching 120 clues.

"Bleaching the yarn is performed by laying it in large tubs, covered with thick cloths, upon which ashes are placed; and pouring hot water daily through it, turning the yarn frequently, until the bark comes off. It is then rendered whiter, by spreading it on poles in the air. This is a difficult part of the business; the art consisting in procuring the best colour with the least diminution of strength.

"Weaving is, in general, conducted in the manner I have stated: that is, by purchasing the yarn at market, and after bleaching, making it into cloth of various degrees of fineness and breadth. The breadths are half-ell; three quarters wide; three quarters and a nail; seven-eighths and yard-wide

sheeting; yard-wide; seven yards one-eighth wide; and ell-wide. Prices from 10d. per yard, half-ell-wide, to 4s. or 4s. 6d. ell-wide.

"Exceeding good huckaback is also made from hemp for towels and common table-cloths. The low priced hems are a general wear for husbandmen, servants, and labouring manufacturers; the sorts from 18d. to 2s. per yard, are the usual wear of farmers and tradesmen; the finer sorts, seven-eighths wide, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per yard, are preferred by many gentlemen, for strength and warmth, to other linen.

"The largest quantity of hemp is sold as it comes from the loom, and bleached by the purchasers; but some quantity is bleached, ready for weaving, either by the weaver or by a whiter: this is done by boiling it in lye (made from ashes) and frequently spreading it on the grass till it is white.

"Many weavers vend their cloths entirely by retail, in their neighbourhood; others to shopkeepers, principally in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and in part of Essex; and others at Dis, where there is a hall for the sale of hemp cloth, once a week; and at Norwich, where there is a street occupied by weavers, from different parts of the country, who have shops in it.

"The earnings of the journeyman weaver vary considerably, from the season; frosty, windy, and very dry weather being unfavourable; and they vary also, from the great difference in skill, and the quality of the materials to work upon: they may earn from about 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day; in extra cases, more.

"I think, Sir, you will perceive, from the statement I have given of the manner in which the hemp trade is conducted, the difficulty of ascertaining with any certainty, the profits arising from an acre of hemp converted into cloth.

"The hemp manufacture cannot rival that of flax, in fineness; nor is it desirable:—in colour it is by no means deficient, and possesses this advantage over Irish and all other linens, that its colour improves in wearing, while theirs declines. But the article in

which English hemp, properly manufactured stands unrivalled, is the strength;—flax will not bear the least comparison with it, in this respect; and I can assert, from experience, that it is far superior in strength to Russian—the strongest known hemp next to the English.

“The necessity of keeping up the quality of the cloths, should be strongly impressed on the weavers; perhaps if premiums were given for the best manufactured hemp cloths, it might be serviceable under proper regulations. I think the public would be found very much disposed to encourage a strong manufacture of cloth; and there are facts which induce me to think so.

“Considerable quantities of Russian sheeting are sold in England, merely for their strength; as they are coarser at the price than any other foreign linen.

“Suffolk hemp if known, would always be preferred, being stronger than Russian, from the quality of the thread, and at the same time, lighter in washing; which is often an objection to Russian.


“You inquire if Suffolk hemp is used for ropes? I believe, never. It is too fine and dear, and sacking is principally made from Russian Hemp, although the offal of English is sometimes used.”

The Rev. Mr. Mills, of Bury, also writes thus:—“Hemp delights in a black, rich mould, the richer and stronger it is the better. It has sometimes been sown upon the breaking up of an old lay, and where there has been sufficient depth, with success. Let the land be well worked and manured with 30 loads per acre, about a fortnight before seed-time, which is from the beginning to the end of April: if sown earlier, as the plants are almost as tender as French beans, the frosts would greatly injure, if not totally destroy them; the sooner (the season permitting) it is sown the better, though it has been sometimes deferred till the 15th of May. Three bushels and a half of good bright seed are sufficient for an acre, which should be gently and lightly harrowed in—the birds must be kept off the land till the plants appear; the time

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of pulling is about the beginning of August, or more properly speaking, thirteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity; the male and female hemp are pulled together: indeed, when the crop is thick, it is impossible to separate them. The expense of pulling is generally estimated at one shilling per peck, according to the quantity originally sown.

“When it is all taken up and bound in small bundles, with bands at each end, to such a bigness as you can grasp with both hands, it is conveyed to the pond of standing water (if a clay-pit, the better) where it is laid bundle upon bundle, direct and across

thus,  this is termed a bed of

hemp, and after it is piled to such a thickness as to answer the depth of the water (which cannot be too deep)\* it is loaded with blocks and logs of wood, until all of it is totally immersed: after remaining in this state four or five days, as the weather shall direct, it is taken out and carried to a field of aftermath, or any other grass that is clean and free from cattle; the bundles being untied, it is spread out thin, stalk by stalk; in this state it must be turned every other day, especially in moist weather, lest the worms should injure it; thus it remains for six weeks or more; then it is gathered together, tied in large bundles, and kept dry† in a house till December or January, when the stalks are broken and the bark wholly freed from them, by an instrument called a breaker. The art of breaking it, by a labourer of common capacity, would be learned in a few hours, and the swinging of it, which follows, requiring some sleight as well as labour, though more difficult, might in

\*“This deserves experimental inquiry, watering hemp is a partial rotting, through fermentation; the vicinity of the atmosphere must for that purpose be necessary. The best hemp ponds I have seen, have not exceeded the depth of six feet.”

† it might do as well stacked, if kept perfectly dry.

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a little longer time be acquired. After breaking and swingling, it is sent to the heckler and hemp dresser, to be prepared for spinning, according to the fineness desired.

"Should the hemp stand for seed, the yarn of it will never be so white, as it is not watered, but only spread on the grass for the benefit of the dews; it will not be improper to observe in this case, after it is tied in bundles it is set up like wheat in shocks, till the seed will freely shed, and then threshed out.

"As you requested, I inquired, if a rich sand would answer for the cultivation of hemp; and whether wheat might be sown after it. Both these questions were answered in the negative.\*

The reason assigned against the wheat was, the richness of the land would make it run to straw. Oats is the general crop after hemp.—Turnips sown immediately after it, have answered tolerably well."

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*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,  
ON the arrival of the Belfast Almanack, for the year 1809 at this place, I purchased one, as I generally do, being conscious of the utility of such publications. Celestial phenomena, viz. Solar and Lunar Eclipses, Moon's Phases, &c. were the object of my first perusal, by which I found that on the 29th and 30th days of April next, there will be a Lunar eclipse. A few days ago I was in company with a gentleman who was passing through this town, who had a copy of the *Gentleman's Almanack*. On looking over it, I saw that on the 29th and 30th days of April next there will be a Solar eclipse, not a Lunar, as stated in the Belfast Almanack. If some of your Astronomical cor-

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\* It is common to sow wheat after hemp in various parts of this kingdom, and also in France; and it is reckoned one of the best preparations for that grain; but upon a rich black mould, the observation of this gentleman is probably very just. I have seen very fine hemp on good sands. A. Y.

respondents would be so kind as to let me know if either, or which, of the Almanacks is correct, they would oblige  
INQUIRER.

*Cushendall, February 20, 1809.*

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*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,  
ON receiving your Magazine for January, I was much surprized on seeing such a gross error, as appears in printing my account of Carrickfergus; namely, such a large portion left out entirely. Supposing it to have been lost, I send you the part that is left out, hoping you will insert it in your Magazine for February.

S. M. S.

*The following should precede the article in p. 24, of last No.*

Three miles north of the town, is a large lake of fresh water, called Lough-morn, about a mile and a quarter long, and upwards of half a mile broad; very little water runs into it, but a stream runs out, which turns a cotton mill;\* its water is supposed to be formed by a large spring near its centre, as there is no appearance of any near its margin. The water is very pure and is well stored with pike and eels of a large size. Near this has been lately built a Meeting-house, belonging to that sect of Dissenters called Covenanters, or Mountain-men. Two miles West of this lough,† on the top of a hill

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\* Besides the above-mentioned stream, about a mile from this lough, towards the town, at a place called Sulla-toher is a very large spring of water, which turns a cotton-mill in the driest season; it is supposed to be a part of the water of this lough, which has a subterraneous passage thither.

† Concerning its Origin there is the following absurd tradition: That it was once a large town, when one evening an old man came into it seeking a lodging, and being refused by several people he said "although it was a town then, it would be a lough ere morn." He instantly left the town and retired to an adjacent hill; the people were soon alarmed by the ground shaking, and eels rising about the hearth-stones! when lo! in an instant the town sunk to rise no more; and it has since been called Lough-morn.